

NANOOSE LIBRARY DECEMBER 2022 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Dolly Alderton

Ghosts

Nina Dean is in her early thirties and is a successful food writer. When she meets Max and he tells her on date one that he's going to marry her, it feels like all is going to plan. A new relationship couldn't have come at a better time. Everywhere she turns, she is reminded of time passing and opportunities dwindling. Friendships are fading, ex-boyfriends are moving on and, worse, everyone's moving to the suburbs. There's no solace to be found in her family, with a mum who's caught in a baffling mid-life makeover and a beloved dad who is vanishing in slow-motion into dementia.

Jeffrey Archer

Next in line

London, 1988. Royal fever sweeps the nation as Britain falls in love with the 'people's princess'. Which means for Scotland Yard, the focus is on the elite Royalty Protection Command, and its commanding officer. Entrusted with protecting the most famous family on earth, they quite simply have to be the best. A weak link could spell disaster.

Elena Armas

The Spanish love deception

Catalina Martín desperately needs a date for her sister's wedding. She only has four weeks to find someone willing to cross the Atlantic and aid in her deception. New York to Spain is no short flight and her raucous family won't be easy to fool. Enter Aaron Blackford, her tall, handsome, condescending colleague, who surprisingly offers to step in. She'd rather refuse; never has there been a more aggravating, blood-boiling, and insufferable man. But Catalina is desperate.

David Baldacci

Long shadows

FBI agent, Amos Decker, returns to investigate the mysterious and brutal murder of a federal judge and her bodyguard at her home in an exclusive, gated community in Florida. Things are changing for Decker. He's in crisis following the suicide of a close friend and receipt of a letter concerning a personal issue which could change his life forever. Together with the prospect of working with a new partner, Frederica White, Amos knows that this case will take all of his special skills to solve.

Karen Brooks

The good wife of Bath

England, 1364: When married off at aged twelve to an elderly farmer, Eleanor quickly realizes it won't matter what she says or does, God is not on her side. But then again, Eleanor was born under the joint signs of Venus and Mars, making her both a lover and a fighter. Aided by a head for business (and a surprisingly kind husband), Eleanor manages to turn her first marriage into success, and she rises through society from a cast-off farm girl to a woman of fortune who becomes a trusted friend of the social-climbing poet Geoffrey Chaucer.

Lee Child

No Plan B

In Gerrardsville, Colorado, two witnesses to the same tragedy give two different accounts. One guy sees a woman throw herself in front of a bus in what authorities will call a suicide. The other witness is Jack Reacher. And he sees what actually happened: A man in a grey hoodie and jeans, moving like a shadow, pushed the victim to her death, before swiftly grabbing the dead woman's purse and strolling away.

Michael Connelly

Desert Star

A year has passed since LAPD detective Renée Ballard quit the force in the face of misogyny, demoralization, and endless red tape. Yet, after the chief of police himself tells her she can write her ticket within the department, Ballard takes back her badge to rebuild the cold case unit at the Robbery-Homicide Division. For years, Harry Bosch has been working a case of the murder of an entire family by a psychopath who still walks free. Ballard makes Bosch an offer: come work with her as a volunteer investigator in her Unit, and he can pursue his case with the resources of the LAPD behind him.

Patricia Cornwell***Livid***

Forensic pathologist Kay Scarpetta has just inherited one of the most notorious cases of her career. Two years ago, a former beauty queen's body washed up on the shore of Wallops Island, Virginia. She was last seen on a boat with her fiancé, who has since been held in jail while awaiting trial. Scarpetta must act as the expert witness for the case. After a gruelling cross-examination by the prosecutor, Scarpetta leaves the court only to discover that the sister of the judge on her case has been found dead.

Nelson DeMille***The maze***

Another in the NYPD Detective John Corey series. Corey is restless and looking for action, so when his former lover Detective Beth Penrose appears with a job offer, Corey has to once again make some decisions about his career and about reuniting with Beth. Inspired by and based on the actual and still-unsolved Gilgo Beach murders, Corey goes on a hunt for an apparent serial killer who has murdered at least nine sex workers and hidden their bodies in the thick undergrowth on a lonely stretch of beach.

Alena Dillon***Eyes turned skyward***

Kathy Begley is an empty-nester, the primary caretaker of her ailing mother, and the emotional support for her laid-off husband. She's also returning to the office after two decades to work under a borderline-inappropriate boss. Then a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony invitation arrives, and she uncovers an unfathomable family secret: her mother, Peggy Mayfield, wasn't just a tempestuous wife and mother. She was an Airforce Service Pilot.

Vince Flynn***Oath of loyalty***

With President Anthony Cook convinced that Mitch Rapp poses a mortal threat to him, CIA Director Irene Kennedy is forced to construct a truce between the two men. The terms are simple: Rapp agrees to leave the country and stay in plain sight for as long as Cook controls the White House. In exchange, the administration agrees not to make any moves against him.

Anne Grifin***When all is said***

The story of Maurice Hannigan, who, over the course of a Saturday night in June, orders five different drinks at the Rainford House Hotel. With each he toasts a person vital to him: his doomed older brother, his troubled sister-in-law, his daughter of fifteen minutes, his son far off in America, and his late, lamented wife. And through these people, the ones who left him behind, he tells the story of his own life, with all its regrets and feuds, loves and triumphs.

Anne Hillerman***Stargazer***

What begins as a typical day for Officer Bernadette Manuelito: serving a bench warrant, dealing with a herd of cattle obstructing traffic, and stumbling across a crime scene, takes an unexpected twist when she's called to help find an old friend. Years ago, Bernie and Maya were roommates, but time and Maya's struggles with addiction drove them apart. Now Maya's brother asks Bernie to find out what happened to his sister.

Carolyn Huynh***The fortunes of jaded women***

It started with their ancestor Oanh who dared to leave her marriage for true love, so a fearsome Vietnamese witch cursed Oanh and her descendants so that they would never find love or happiness, and the Duong women would give birth to daughters, never sons. Oanh's current descendant Mai Nguyen knows this curse well. Desperate for guidance, she consults Auntie Hua, her trusted psychic in Hawaii, who delivers an unexpected prediction: this year, her family will witness a marriage, a funeral, and the birth of a son. This prophecy will reunite estranged family for better or worse.

John Irving***The last chairlift***

In Aspen, Colorado, in 1941, Rachel Brewster is a slalom skier at the National Downhill and Slalom Championships. Little Ray, as she is called, finishes nowhere near the podium, but she manages to get pregnant. Back home, in New England, Little Ray becomes a ski instructor. Her son, Adam, grows up in

a family that defies conventions and evades questions concerning the past. Years later, looking for answers, Adam goes to Aspen.

Lisa Jackson

The girl who survived

Orphaned at age seven after a horrific killing spree at her family's Oregon cabin, Kara McIntyre is still searching for some kind of normal. But now, twenty years later, the past has come thundering back. Her brother, Jonas, who was convicted of the murders has unexpectedly been released from prison. The press is in a frenzy again. And suddenly, Kara is receiving cryptic messages from her big sister, Marlie who hasn't been seen or heard from since that deadly Christmas Eve when she hid little Kara in a closet with a haunting, life-saving command: Don't make a sound.

Susanna Kearsley

The vanished days

In the autumn of 1707, old enemies from the Highlands to the Borders are finding common ground as they join to protest the new Union with England. At the same time, the French are preparing to launch an invasion to bring the young exiled Jacobite king back to Scotland to reclaim his throne, and in Edinburgh the streets are filled with discontent and danger. Queen Anne's commissioners, seeking to calm the situation, have begun paying out money sent up from London to settle the losses and wages owed to those Scots who took part in the disastrous Darien expedition eight years earlier, an ill-fated venture that left Scotland all but bankrupt.

Barbara Kingsolver

Demon copperhead

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-coloured hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. He braves the modern perils of foster care, child labour, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favour of cities.

Ann-Marie MacDonald

Fayne

The book takes its title from the novel's setting, a vast, boggy estate that straddles the border of England and Scotland, belonging to neither country and thus existing in a state of suspended, perpetual dispute. Fayne is the home and family seat of Charlotte Bell, who spends her days tromping across the moor, fishing for trout, and riding astride a pig. But, by night, Charlotte is tortured by visions of her dead brother, Charles, and by guilt over her mother, who perished giving birth to her. A mysterious medical condition has necessitated her cloistered existence, and her only company is an indulgent, bird-obsessed father, Lord Henry Bell, and a household of loyal servants.

James Patterson

Deadly cross

Kay Willingham led a life as glamorous as it was public, she was a Georgetown socialite, philanthropist, and the ex-wife of the vice-president. So why was she parked in a Bentley convertible idling behind a DC private school, in the middle of the night, with the man who was the head of that school? Who shot them both, point blank, and why?

Ian Rankin

A heart full of headstones

John Rebus stands accused: on trial for a crime that could put him behind bars for the rest of his life. It's not the first time the legendary detective has taken the law into his own hands, though it might be the last. But what drove a good man to cross the line?

Iain Reid

We spread

Penny, an artist, has lived in the same apartment for decades, surrounded by the artifacts and keepsakes of her long life. She is resigned to the mundane rituals of old age, until things start to slip. Before her longtime partner passed away years earlier, provisions were made, unbeknownst to her, for a room in a unique long-term care residence, where Penny finds herself after one too many "incidents."

James Rollins

Kingdom of bones

A UN relief team in a village in the Congo makes an alarming discovery. An unknown force is levelling the evolutionary playing field. Men, women, and children have been reduced to a dull, cattle-like state. The natural world surrounding them have grown more cunning and predatory, evolving at an exponential pace. The insidious phenomenon is spreading across the African continent, threatening the rest of the world. But is it a natural event? Or more terrifyingly, did someone engineer it?

John Sandford

Righteous prey

"We're going to murder people who need to be murdered." So begins a press release from a mysterious group known only as "The Five," shortly after a vicious predator is murdered in San Francisco. The Five is made up of vigilante killers who are very bored and very rich. They target the worst of society and then use their unlimited resources to offset the damage done by those who they've killed, donating untraceable Bitcoin to charities and victims via the dark net. The Five soon become popular figures in the media though their motives may not be entirely pure.

Wilbur Smith

Titans of war

For over fifty years Egypt has known nothing but war and devastation at the hands of the Hyksos, a bloodthirsty barbarian people from the distant east who continue to advance, crushing armies in their wake. Times are desperate, but throughout the conflict, a brave resistance fights on under the great Taita, a slave who has risen far beyond his ranks.

Nicholas Sparks

Dreamland

Colby Mills once felt destined for a musical career, until tragedy grounded his aspirations. Now the head of a small family farm in North Carolina, he spontaneously takes a gig playing at a bar in St. Pete's Beach, Florida, seeking a rare break from his duties at home. But when he meets Morgan Lee, his world is turned upside-down, making him wonder if the responsibilities he has shouldered need dictate his life forever.

Diana Stevan

Sunflowers under fire

Based on the true stories of her grandmother's ordeals. In 1915, Lukia Mazurets, a Ukrainian farmwife, delivers her eighth child while her husband is serving in the Tsar's army. Soon after, she and her children are forced to flee the invading Germans. Over the next fourteen years, Lukia must rely on her wits and faith to survive life in a refugee camp, the ravages of a typhus epidemic, the Bolshevik revolution, unimaginable losses, and one daughter's forbidden love.

Elizabeth Strout

Lucy by the sea

As a panicked world goes into lockdown, Lucy Barton is uprooted from her life in Manhattan and bundled away to a small town in Maine by her ex-husband and on-again, off-again friend, William. For the next several months, it's just Lucy, William, and their complex past together in a little house nestled against the moody, swirling sea.

Alaina Urquhart

The butcher and the wren

Something dark is lurking in the Louisiana bayou: a methodical killer with a penchant for medical experimentation is hard at work completing his most harrowing crime yet, taunting the authorities who desperately try to catch up. But forensic pathologist Dr. Wren Muller, armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of historical crimes, and years of experience working in the Medical Examiner's office, has never encountered a case she couldn't solve.

NON-FICTION

June Hutton

Four umbrellas: a couple's journey into young-onset Alzheimer's

At the age of fifty-three, Tony walks away from a life of journalism and into an unknown future. June is forty-eight, a writer and teacher, and over the following decade watches as her husband changes until Tony has a fall, ending the life they had known. A diagnosis is seven years away, yet the signs of Alzheimer's are all around. A suitcase Tony packs for a trip is jammed with four umbrellas, a visual

symbol of cognitive looping. But how far back do these signs go? The couple starts probing the past and finding answers. This is not an old person's disease.

Donna Morrissey

Pluck: a memoir of a Newfoundland childhood and the raucous, terrible, amazing journey to becoming a novelist

When Donna Morrissey left the only home she had ever known, an isolated Newfoundland settlement, at age 16, she was ready for adventure. She had grown up without television or telephones but had absorbed the tragic stories and comic yarns of her close-knit family and community. The death of her infant brother marked the family, and years later, Morrissey suffers devastating guilt about the accidental death of her teenage brother, whom she'd enticed to join her in the oilfields. Her misery was compounded by her own misdiagnosis of a terminal illness, all of which contributed to crippling anxiety and an actual diagnosis of PTSD. Many of those events and themes would eventually be transformed and recast as fictional gold in Morrissey's novels.

Michelle Obama

The light we carry: overcoming in uncertain times

There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life's big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. In the book, she opens a frank dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?